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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 001119

SIPDIS

DEPT. FOR P, EUR, EUR/SE, NEA AND NEA/NGA;
NSC FOR AMB. KHALILZAD;
OSD FOR USDP LUTI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/19/2013
TAGS: [PREL](#) [MARR](#) [MOPS](#) [PREF](#) [PHUM](#) [TU](#) [IZ](#) [UNSC](#)
SUBJECT: NORTHERN IRAQ: ITF COMPLAINS NOT BEING INFORMED
ABOUT OPPOSITION CONFERENCE PLANS

REF: ANKARA 1093

Classified by Political Military Affairs Counselor Stuart
Brown. Reasons 1.5 b and d.

1. (C) Operation Northern Watch POLAD received the following note for Amb. Khalilzad from the Iraqi Turkmen Front (ITF) on Feb. 19. It reflects information conveyed to ONW POLAD by Turkish MFA officers reftel and points to the KDP as the cause of the problem.

2. (C) Begin text:

Mr. Zalmi Halilzad

We have been informed by the press that the Iraqi Observation and Cooperation committee will gather on February 19-20 in Erbil.

Since the ITF as a major opposition group and member of the committee did not receive any official written invitation about this meeting and it's postpone, we sent a delegation to Selahhaddin in order to gain information about this specific case but the entrance of our delegation was hindered by the KDP officials.

Also, our attempts to get in contact with Ghassan Attiyah and other committee members in Erbil was hindered by the KDP and means of communication were obstructed. ITF Chairman and member of the committee Mr. Sanan Ahmet Aga who wanted to visit the committee members was restrained to enter the hotel by the KDP.

We want to inform you that ITF was not invited to the Iraqi Observation and Cooperation committee and was opposed by the KDP forces who want to take the meeting under their control.

ITF Executive Committee
19 Feb. 2003

End Text of Note.

3. (C) PUK Ankara rep Bahros Galali told ONW POLAD Feb. 20 that PUK leader Jalal Talabani had sent word to the ITF that he would provide them with details about the conference and that they should send any questions to him in Sulaymaniyah via a driver. Galali also spoke with TGS liaison in Silopi Itaz Pasha who, according to Galali, agreed that this was a minor issue that should be resolved without recourse to formal complaints to the Turkish MFA and the USG (which the ITF had made).
PEARSON